

The Advisor



National Police enhance skills

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U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Kimberly Green

JournalistsU.S. Air Force
Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson**U.S. Navy**Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class
Elisandro Diaz**CPATT Public Affairs Officer**

Lt. Col. Pablo Hernandez

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The faces of Iraqi soldiers and police have been altered to protect their identities.

Direct questions and comments to:
pao@mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil
MNSTC-I PAO
APO AE 09316
DSN: 318-852-1334

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ON THE COVER

A National Police officer provides rear security during an exercise in Kadamiyah, Iraq Jan. 30.

Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

Defense leaders: Iraq debate should focus on how to win

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Debate about operations in Iraq is completely appropriate, Defense Secretary Robert W. Gates said today, but he added that he believes those debates center not on whether there's any option except to win, but on the best way to reach that objective.

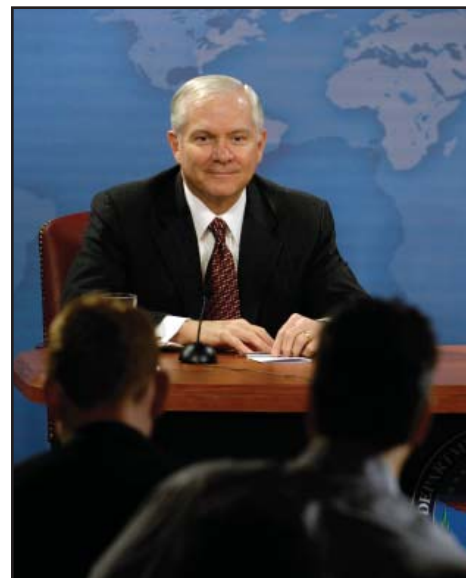
"I don't know anyone on (Capitol) Hill who thinks that failure ... in Iraq ... would have anything other than very serious and negative consequences for the United States and for the region," Gates told reporters during a Pentagon round-table briefing. He went on to define failure as "leaving Iraq in chaos."

"So I think what people are trying to do is figure out what is the ... best, constructive way forward to avoid that outcome in Iraq," he said. "And I think that's what the debate's about."

The debate also focuses on the best way to "incentivize the Iraqis to take responsibility for their own future," Gates said. "I think that's a good debate to have."

Iraq continues to struggle with a complex set of challenges, Gates acknowledged, but he said the term "civil war," oversimplifies the situation. He called the "civil war" label "a bumper-sticker answer to what is going on in Iraq," that really doesn't fit the circumstances.

Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, agreed with Gates' assessment, noting that conditions in Iraq don't meet "civil war" criteria. "The Iraqi army is loyal to the central government," he said. "You do not have 'Iraqi



Secretary of Defense Robert Gates addresses reporters during a news conference Feb. 2.

army of the north fighting Iraqi army of the south' and other things like that."

Gates reiterated the view he expressed during his Dec. 5 Senate confirmation hearing, when he cited four separate and distinct situations in Iraq.

"I believe there are essentially four wars going on in Iraq," he said. Shia-on-Shia violence is occurring mostly in the south. Sectarian violence is centered on Baghdad, but occurs in other regions, too. An insurgency is under way, and al Qaeda is continuing its operations and attacking all those targets.

Both leaders said focusing on the best way ahead in Iraq is far more productive than trying to pin a label on the situation there.

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"I believe there are essentially four wars going on in Iraq. Shia-on-Shia violence is occurring mostly in the south. Sectarian violence is centered on Baghdad, but occurs in other regions, too. An insurgency is under way, and al Qaeda is continuing its operations and attacking all those targets.

Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense

Q&A - Director of Contracting, Ministry of Defense

Contracting is an important part of any military organization. It is critical when the task involves rebuilding, equipping, and sustaining a new military structure that needs buildings, weapons, vehicles, and life support. The man in charge of contracting within the Ministry of Defense, Mr. Mudafa, is responsible for all military contracts nation-wide. His office is responsible for negotiating contracts, developing contract policy, and for ensuring contracts are within established guidelines. *The Advisor* was granted an interview late last year.

Q: It has been said that contracting in Iraq has been an almost impossible task. Describe the contracting processes you use in MOD?

A: We don't have international standards for contracting in Iraq and we don't have people experienced in proper contracting who worked here in the past. There have been many legal violations in the past. We are starting from zero, to put a foundation back into proper contracting.

Some might say you have a very challenging job as Director of Contracting. What drew you to this position?

I'm not here for money; I'm here to serve my country.

Reports from some Western press say that Iraqi military logistic capabilities are several years from being self-sufficient. How long before you think that the MOD will be able to sustain itself across the entire spectrum of supply and logistics?

In order to make the Iraqi army self-sufficient, we have to start now to put a foundation in place. We need about one year to three years, taking in consideration the security situation in some areas of Iraq, like in the south and the middle. The quiet areas will have the priority and they will be ahead of the other areas, they will become self sufficient before those rougher areas.

What is your vision for the contracting directorate in the next ten years?

I think there will be a bright future for this directorate because we are depending on a good foundation and we are taking in consideration the recommendations of the legal committee.

Can you give me an example of a program that you have put in place to help improve the contracting process here?

One of the main problems has been the delay in the stages of processing of contracts. It was slow for two reasons. One, There was faltering or confusion on the subject of the initial submission of requests. Second, there was a default or confusion on the specifications that go into individual contracts. I was



Photo by U.S. Army Master Sgt. Rick Brown

Mr. Mudafa, Ministry of Defense Director of Contracting

forced to find the right way, and also to make a short cut. I have met with my advisor on how to do it. I now have the approval from the defense counsel and even approval from the Minister. However, the model needed some final touches. We used it as an example to build upon. We were able to shorten the process from six months to three months for contract and s it now takes two-to-three days to complete the paperwork.

What does all this mean to Iraqi citizens?

Wherever you see honesty, self-education you can see it works. Iraqi citizens want these things from us - honesty and self-education. Enshallah, we are going to succeed in that.

How has your team been able to succeed and those before you couldn't?

We built a new team, I have a new team that came with me from the old Army. ■

Wherever you see honesty, self-education you can see it works. Iraqi citizens want these things from us - honesty and self-education. Enshallah, we are going to succeed in that.

**Mr. Mudafa
Minsistry of Defense Director of Contracting**

National Police expands capabilities

By U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

KHADAMIYAH, Iraq — The Iraqi National Police 2nd Division headquarters has reached a milestone in its development as an in-service, self-sustaining training center for members of the National Police at its headquarters in Khadamiyah.

The mission of the 2nd National Police Division is, according to Iraqi National Police Battalion Commander Col. Mohammed, to provide security for the Khadamiyah neighborhood, its mosque and to manage the multiple traffic control points within its jurisdiction. He said the National Police are receiving training that enables them to respond quicker to emergencies and increases their capability of rapidly deploying personnel to traffic control points should the security situation require it.

Mohammed spoke of the challenges the National Police face on a daily basis and how this training is equipping them to face the terrorist threat. "The terrorists have the advantage of choosing the time



Photos by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

National Police officers from the 2nd Division practice assaulting a room during a quick reaction force exercise in Khadamiyah, Iraq Jan. 30

and location to attack and they can also see us but we cannot see them," he stated. "That is why ... we train the policemen to be effective in confronting terrorism."

Mohammed presented evidence of the effectiveness of the training. Recently, elements from the 2nd National Police Division apprehended several insurgents and freed their kidnapping victims.

Sgt. Bashar, one of the Division's training instructors, said there are 18 men going through a five-week program. He emphasized that trainees at the headquarters have already gone through their basic training and that this new training focuses on advanced skills to take the policemen to the next level of readiness.

Some of the training the officers are refreshed on include the Quick Reaction Force and Combat Life Saver courses.

According to Mohammed, because of the volatile situation in Khadamiyah, his men must develop the skills to confront the danger from insurgents and terrorists and the division is providing this training. Most of the training the policemen receive

is centered on entering and exiting houses and providing quick medical care to injured personnel.

One of the exercises the policemen train on is the quick reaction force drills. In one such drill the police respond to an emergency call tipping them to an insurgent hiding in a house. The police dismount from their vehicles, surround and enter a building in tactical formation. Each member of the team has a specific location within the formation and aims his weapon in a direction that affords him protection and also overlaps the coverage his teammates are providing until they take down the target.

They also practice raids on multiple objectives where they enter a building, secure the target, go on to a second structure and repeat the process. They practice as one team and in tandem to coordinate efforts to improve response times. The targets are in open structures to allow instructors to monitor and assess the progress of the team throughout the exercises.



A National Police officer stands guard while one of his comrades simulates life-saving techniques on an officer during an exercise in Khadamiyah, Iraq Jan. 30.

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Iraqi military information consolidated

By U.S. Air Force
Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Iraqi Army has passed a number of milestones this year as it continues to grow both in capacity and expertise. Some milestones are met with much fanfare; others are met with little ceremony, but are no less important.

This past week, as part of the Iraqi defense ministry's groundbreaking efforts to create a comprehensive and complete personnel system, officials within the department recently held a training session on data collection for the Iraqi Army's more than 135,000 soldiers.

While collecting personal data and creating databases may not captivate the average observer, the program will have large-reaching implications for the everyday operations of Iraqi combat units and the welfare of the soldiers assigned to those units, said the director of Iraq's Ministry of Defense Records Directorate who declined to be identified for this article, citing security concerns.

"This system will provide commanders with an exact idea of who is serving in the military at the battalion level and will also ensure that all Iraqi soldiers receive the pay that is due to them," the director said.

The purpose of the training held last week was to give each division the capability to control personal and biometric data collected on each soldier, said Ministry officials. This quality control check will make the personnel process more efficient once it reaches MOD. The MOD will then use the data to populate the MOD Personnel Database and the end result will be a MOD ID Card being issued to all soldiers that data has been collected on.

Eventually, the work of the staff collecting the data will be implemented into another one of the ministry's personnel projects, the Human Resources Information Management System. The HRIMS project will encompass the data collected by the personnel director and his staff and will utilize a highly vaunted business program used



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson

A representative from the Ministry of Defense's Records Directorate prepares to take a photo of a representative of an Iraqi Army Division for an ID card. The defense ministry is implementing a program to consolidate the information of its soldiers for more efficiency and will soon have the capability to issue the soldiers official ID cards.

by major corporations worldwide to manage the information, said Bob Silva, a Coalition advisor assisting with the project.

"The MOD database has entries for each soldier and this will allow us to have all the information that we need to make sure each unit has an accurate listing for all of its personnel," the director said. "This project will continue after this stage. We will next move to the collection at the battalions and should be moving in a good direction at the end of next month."

Previously, paper records were kept and allowed for a lot of discrepancies in the personnel process, Silva said.

"Basically there was nothing before this," he added.

The session, which included representatives from eight of the Army's 10 divisions and the Iraqi Ground Forces Command, demonstrated information gathering technology such as fingerprint scanners, digital photos, professional databases and new laptop computers that the division representatives can take back to their units with them, the director said. All of the equipment was purchased for the units by MOD.

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Training program allows officers to self-train



Photos by U.S. Navy MC2 Elsiandro Diaz

An Iraqi National Police officer responds to a simulated casualty during an exercise in Khadamiyah, Iraq Jan. 30. The exercise tested the unit's quick-reaction force and combat life-saver techniques.

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Another course trains policemen in Combat Life Saver methods. The CLS course equips the policemen in advanced first aid skills that provide quick lifesaving care for medical emergencies as a result of combat or accidents. According to information provided by Coalition forces, the primary cause of death for injuries sustained in a field environment is the loss of blood. This is followed by blockage of breathing and open chest wounds. The CLS course trains the policemen to provide immediate medical care in these areas to stabilize the injured until professional medical attention can be rendered.

According to U.S. Army Master Sgt. James Lemon, a Coalition advisor to the 2nd Division, this in-service training is the first of its kind in Iraq.

"The program is planned, organized and run by the Iraqis. The Iraqis have become the subject matter experts and are now providing their own training," said Lemon.

Lemon credits the diligence of the policemen for the success of the program and for opening opportunities to its policemen for their personal development. Lemon recounted a recent success story of one person who was a cook just a few months ago but has developed the skills to earn a position as trainer of quick response training. The officer maintains his training position on top of his duties as a front-line policeman.

Another success story for the 2nd Division National Police is the planned opening of a new medical aid station on its site during the first quarter of 2007. The medical station will, according to police Lieutenant Ali, the assistant training officer, address the shortage of medical facilities for policemen in the Khadamiyah area.

"All future plans for the program and its resources will be planned, executed and conducted by the Iraqis themselves," said Lemon.

According to Mohammed, "We work hard with limited resources and have been very effective. If there were no National Police the situation in Iraq would be much, much worse."



An Iraqi National Police assault team practices building assault exercises Jan. 30 in Khadimamiyah, Iraq. The officers were participating in a new program that allows the Iraqi unit to conduct its own training.



Taji grads

TAJI, Iraq — Newly-graduated Iraqi soldiers celebrated their graduation from basic training Jan. 27 at Camp Taji, Iraq. The graduation featured a ceremony where the new soldiers demonstrated drill, senior Iraqi army officials gave speeches and new soldiers demonstrated tactical skills learned during training. At the end of the event, the proud cadets displayed Iraqi flags and celebrated with friends and family.



Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Ronda Jordan

Focusing on way ahead for Iraq

LEADERS, From Page 2

"It's a very complex issue, and putting a bumper sticker on it really doesn't help solve the problem," Pace said. "The question is, 'Where are we? Where should we be? And how do we get from where we are to where we're supposed to be? And that is what the new plan is all about.'"

Gates told reporters he's "comfortable" supporting President Bush's orders to send additional troops to Iraq to support that plan, despite objections by some in Congress.

"The president is the com-

mander in chief of the armed forces. The president has given the direction. We are carrying out his orders.

"Sometimes a president has to take a long view, and sometimes that puts him in opposition to public opinion and to sentiment in Congress," he said.

Gates offered a reminder that when President George H.W. Bush announced plans to remove Saddam Hussein's army from Kuwait, only 15 percent of the American people supported the decision. "After it was successful, 90 percent approved of it," he said.



Photo by Cherie A. Thurlby

U.S. Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, responds to a question during a press conference at the Pentagon Feb. 2.

New system modernizes defense ministry



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson

A representative from an Iraqi Army division gets his fingerprints taken during a system demonstration recently.

RECORDS, From Page 5

"Once the battalions have provided their information for the database, the next step will be to send it to their division level," Silva said. "The step after that would be to send the information to MOD."

The session has been a year in the making, the director said. The units have already collected all the personal information on the soldiers from their units and are ready to begin inputting those records into the system. The next step will be for the representatives to take the new equipment back to their units to continue collecting fingerprints and photographs. Once those items have been finalized, the information will be sent back to MOD where the director and his staff will compile them into a single database.

The director had only two weeks to go over the wide variety of items that the project requires, such as providing information on data collecting, introduction to the databases, checking the information prior to its submission to the database and definitions of key concepts. The session concluded with a final written exam, the director said.

Silva added that the entire process was driven by the Iraqi ministry and the Coalition has been able to assist in a strictly supporting role.

"My part in this was assisting the director in what needed to be done to get this event together, but all the training and programs involved were all him," Silva said. "This was definitely an Iraqi-led project.

"If we left tomorrow, could they function on their own? Yes. Absolutely."

IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

Iraqi Army captures death squad leader

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Army Special Operations forces captured suspected death squad leader Feb. 1 during operations with Coalition advisers in southern Baghdad.

The death squad leader is allegedly responsible for carrying out kidnapping and murders against Iraqi civilians in the Hai al Aamel, Al Bayaa and Al Sayidiyah neighborhoods.

The suspect allegedly ran a cell that consisted of more than 20 men. The suspect and his group are implicated in setting up illegal checkpoints in order to kidnap Iraqi civilians and murder them. The leader and his cell are also implicated in the kidnapping of three Iraqi civilians Dec. 10, 2006 and burning them alive.

The suspect is also allegedly responsible for the torture and murder of an Iraqi school principal after he refused to allow the suspect to use the school as a place to conduct illegal interrogations and judicial killings. The school and another in the area were reportedly forced to close due to fears of continued violence.

No civilian, Iraqi or Coalition forces casualties were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

Joint Operation nets two caches

BAGHDAD — Iraqi National Police and Coalition advisors discovered two caches in a joint operation in Al-Doura, a southern neighborhood in the Iraqi capital Feb. 1.

The munitions caches included multiple side-arms, an AK-47 with 3,000 rounds, an improvised explosive device, 15 pounds of homemade explosives, two pounds of plastic explosives, a

125mm projectile with detonation cord and fuse, 239 57mm projectiles, as well as various protective gear.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*

Iraqi Army troops find rocket launcher

RADWANIYAH, Iraq — Iraqi Army troops seized a home-made rocket launcher east of Radwaniyah, Iraq Jan. 31.

Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division found the weapon in a field during a dismounted route clearance operation.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*

Iraqi soldiers discover terrorist safe haven

BAGHDAD — Iraqi army forces captured two suspected terrorists in the al-Ameriya area of Baghdad Jan. 28. Upon interrogation, they admitted that the Al-Akhwa al-Saliheen mosque was a common meeting place of terrorist groups from Abu Ghraib, al-Mada'in, and Haifa Street. After gaining permission from the official chain of command, Iraqi soldiers raided the mosque.

The forces captured 11 terrorists gathered inside the mosque and seized one 82mm mortar system, one rifle, eight machine guns, clothes stained with blood, a make-shift gallows, a cell phone including photos and footages of IED detonations as well as forms to join the "Islamic State."

— *Iraq Ministry of Defense Public Affairs*



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall



Pushing for security

Iraqi soldiers secure a building during operations to clear the area of insurgents in Baqubah, Iraq Jan. 27.

IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

Iraqi Army intensifies hunt for terrorists

DIYALA — Iraqi army forces have intensified efforts to chase down terrorists and identify hideouts throughout the Diyala province, a province to the northeast of Baghdad.

Iraqi soldiers were able to capture multiple terrorists accused of killing, kidnapping, and displacing Iraqi families in a successful operation Jan. 28. A terrorist leader who confessed to the killing of 33 people was also arrested during the operation.

In Abaarah, four people wanted by Iraqi Security Forces were captured while in Muqdadia 10 terrorists were captured.

In Little Prwanah, local residents were able to confront and stop a terrorist attack long enough for Iraqi forces to arrive and establish control over the area.

— *Iraq Ministry of Defense Public Affairs*

Iraqi soldiers find weapons cache in As Sadiya

BAQUBAH — Soldiers from the 5th Iraqi Army Division discovered a weapons cache consisting of 34 mortar rounds in an area east of As Sadiya, Iraq, Jan. 28.

Iraqi Security Forces were conducting a patrol in the area of Sahooch Village when the discovery was made.

Their increased presence in the village was based on requests from the people of the area during discussions with area military leaders during a meeting with tribal leaders from the As Sadiyah and Jalulla areas in Diyala province, Jan. 25.

— *Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs*



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Cheryl Cox

Assault training

Soldiers from the 9th Iraqi Army Division practice techniques for moving down a hallway while clearing a house. The soldiers have been working with one of the many Military Transition Teams at Camp Taji.

Troops discover caches in Diyala province

BAQUBAH — Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division and Coalition advisors discovered an improvised explosive device cache while conducting combat operations east of Baqubah, Jan. 28.

The cache consisted of electrical blasting caps, electrical connectors, a remote firing system and four bundles of explosives.

The IED was disposed of on site by a Coalition explosive ordnance disposal team.

— *Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs*

Iraqi soldiers preempt major terrorist attack

NAJAF — Iraqi police from Najaf discovered a sophisticated plan by a newly identified terrorist group to kill Shi'ite pilgrims and Shi'ite leadership during Ashura planning, Jan. 28.

Police surrounded a large compound in Kufu, a few miles north of Najaf, early in the morning demanding the group surrender. When the group refused and began attacking the police, the local police commander contacted the Iraqi National Police's Scorpion Brigade and Coalition Forces for assistance. Coalition Forces dropped leaflets encouraging the group to surrender. When that failed, the National Police commander contacted the Iraqi Commander in Chief (the Prime Minister) who ordered that either the group surrender or be disarmed by force.

The police commanders once again attempted to convince the group to surrender. When that failed and the group again opened fire, the police, units of the Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces moved into the compound and immediately were subjected to heavy small arms and machine gun fire.

Iraqi Security Forces were able to seize the compound after Coalition close air support was called in.

The group, calling itself the Soldiers of Heaven, was led by Joh Diha Abdul Zehar Kadhum el Kurawi who called himself the Judge of Heaven and claimed to be the Mahdi, or messiah. Kurawi, believed to be in his late 30s, organized the cult in 1990 and became very active after the fall of Saddam Hussein. The cult is believed to have amassed large sums of money and equipment found on the compound through intimidation, theft, and other illegal activities.

Iraqi officials stated that the battle resulted in 120 confirmed terrorists killed and more than 360 terrorists wounded and captured. Some of those captured were later released after it was determined they were innocent victims exploited by the terrorist group. The government also confirmed that Kurawi was killed in the operation.

The operation, which lasted more than 24 hours, resulted in five Coalition and 4 Iraqi Security Forces casualties and extensive damage to the cult compound. More than 500 Ak-47 assault rifles, 11 complete mortar systems, several heavy machine guns, and rocket launchers were found in the fortified compound's more than 50 buildings.

— *Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq Public Affairs*